

In October of 2001, when I established the office—the White House Office of Homeland Security, I knew immediately that Tom was the right man for the assignment. He's a decisive, clear-thinking executive who knows how to solve problems. He's a person of integrity and a person of good judgment. At the White House, he has done an outstanding job, and he's earned the gratitude of the American people.

This week he earned an unanimous vote of confirmation. And I want to thank the United States Senate for its swift action. This new Department will face many challenges in the year to come. The American people can be certain that the mission of homeland security will be carried out with focus and resolve, with the resources the task requires. And the American people can know as well that the Department is under the command of a superb leader who has my confidence.

Congratulations, Tom, and thank you for serving our country.

**Secretary Ridge.** Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### January 18

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### January 19

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

### January 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He and Mrs. Bush then trav-

eled to Landover, MD, where they participated in a roundtable discussion with congregation members and community leaders at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden. Later, they returned to Washington, DC.

### January 21

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President dropped by a birthday luncheon for opera singer Plácido Domingo hosted by Mrs. Bush in the East Room at the White House.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti to discuss bilateral issues and cooperation against terrorism.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Schwartz to be Member at Large and Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lawrence Mohr, Jr., and Sharon Falkenheimer to be members of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled: William Mea; Boyd Kevin Rutherford; John Surina; Joanne M. Wilson; Rear Adm. Justin D. McCarthy, USN; Andrew D. Houghton; and James Omvig.

### January 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to St. Louis, MO, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on the national economy at the JS Logistics company.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced the appointment of Gregory L. Schulte as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Paul Woodley, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

**January 23**

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss the situations in Iraq and North Korea.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with members of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council to discuss humanitarian issues in Afghanistan.

During the day, in the Oval Office, the President met with White House speechwriters to discuss his January 28 State of the Union Address.

**January 24**

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with U.S. Conference of Mayors winter meeting participants.

In the afternoon, the President continued preparations for his January 28 State of the Union Address.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Leszek Miller of Poland to Washington, DC, on February 5 to discuss commercial and trade relations between Poland and the U.S.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**


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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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**Submitted January 21**

Jerry Stewart Byrd,  
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years (new position).

Sharon Falkenheimer,  
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services Univer-

sity of the Health Sciences for a term expiring June 20, 2007, vice Lonnie R. Bristow, term expired.

Janet Hale,  
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security (new position).

Karen Johnson,  
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education, vice Rebecca O. Campoverde.

Judith Nan Macaluso,  
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years (new position).

Lawrence Mohr, Jr.,  
of South Carolina, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring June 20, 2003, vice John E. Connolly, term expired.

Lawrence Mohr, Jr.,  
of South Carolina, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring June 20, 2009 (reappointment).

Joseph Michael Francis Ryan III,  
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years (new position).

Michael Schwartz,  
of Illinois, to be a member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2007, vice Cherryl T. Thomas, term expired.

**Submitted January 22**

Mark W. Everson,  
of Texas, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for a term of 5 years, vice Charles Rossotti, term expired.

John Paul Woodley, Jr.,  
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, vice Michael Parker.